



UNITED STATES
ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

JUL 27 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR Metrication Subcommittee, ICSP

FROM: Eldon I. Nowstrup, Chairman *Eldon I. Nowstrup*

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF METRICATION SUBCOMMITTEE
DIVISIONS

The Metrication Subcommittee of the Interagency Committee on Standards Policy (ICSP) at its May 17, 1977 meeting approved a proposal to establish eight "Divisions" to replace the old panels and provide a more structured coordination than we have had in the past. The approval was based on the Draft Division Descriptions (copies enclosed) which were prepared by the Subcommittee Executive Board. The eight approved Divisions are:

Fuel and Power	Legislation and Regulations
Construction	Metric Practices and Preferred Units
Procurement and Supply	Consumer Affairs
Transportation	Awareness, Education, and Training

The establishment of an Information Working Group to which it is assumed all agencies will belong was also approved at the May 17 meeting. A copy of the description of this Group is enclosed.

The Executive Board is now taking steps to establish the eight Divisions. Please fill out the enclosed form to indicate the Divisions in which your agency will participate, and return it to:

John Tascher, Executive Secretary
ICSP Metrication Subcommittee
Technology Building, Room A165
National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D.C. 20234

Enclosures:
As stated

April 22, 1977

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON METRICATION POLICY
METRICATION OPERATING COMMITTEE
DIVISION DESCRIPTION

- I. TITLE: Awareness, Education, and Training
- II. PROPOSED LEAD AGENCY: U.S. Civil Service Commission or Office of Education
- III. OTHER AGENCIES: Civil Service Commission
Office of Education
Department of Defense
Department of Transportation
Department of Agriculture
Department of Interior
Energy Research and Development Administration
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- IV. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE: Coordinate the metrication awareness, education, and training of the federal agencies and keep the agencies informed of the progress of metrication awareness, education, and training, particularly of the State and local governments.
- V. INTERFACE: The academic community, industry, and the private sectors in their metric awareness, education, and training programs and activities, and with Canadian, Australian, and British efforts in this area.
- VI. FUNCTION: Investigate and make recommendations as to the approaches to accomplish metrication awareness, education, and training, and the ones that portend the most direct, economical, and appropriate effort for the federal agency groups by ascertaining: (1) approaches used by industry (e.g., the automotive, food, photography, chemical, and medical industries), (2) programs available in government for civil service employee training (e.g., the U.S. Civil Service Commission, Department of Defense, National Bureau of Standards, and the Federal Aviation Administration), and (3) programs available in the public and private sectors (e.g., U.S. Office of Education, the National Association of Teachers of Mathematics, and the multitude of industrial and private organizations).

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON METRICATION
SUB UNIT

- I. TITLE: Information Working Group
- II. PROPOSED LEAD AGENCY: Metrification Operating Committee
- III. OTHER AGENCIES: All
- IV. PURPOSE & OBJECTIVE: To serve as a focal point for information as to goals, considerations, plans, problems, solutions, time schedules and progress of metrification as needed by members of the Metrification Operating Committee
- To help expedite coordination of metrification.
To serve as communication center for the metrification operating committee.
- V. INTERFACE: American National Metric Council, Agency Metric Coordinators, Divisions, State Metric Coordinators, and the U.S. Metric Board.
- VI. FUNCTION: To gather, store, retrieve, and disseminate such metric information from public and private sources as is needed to fulfill the needs of the Metrification Operating Committee. To keep the Metrification Operating Committee informed as to all pertinent issues and progress. To keep departments and agencies informed of metrification progress and of standard procedures on metric information. Representative to serve as routine information spokesman to the public on Interagency metric matters.
- VII. JUSTIFICATION: There is a crucial need for the storage and retrieval of the information in order to coordinate metrification. This function is critical in keeping the Federal agencies, the Metrification Operating Committee and the Divisions informed on metrification.

Date _____

Metrication Subcommittee
Interagency Committee on Standards Policy

To: John Tascher, Executive Secretary
ICSP Metrication Subcommittee
Technology Building, Room A165
National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D.C. 20234

This agency plans to participate in the following Divisions of the ICSP Metrication Subcommittee:

_____ Fuel and Power
_____ Construction
_____ Procurement and Supply
_____ Transportation
_____ Legislation and Regulations
_____ Metric Practices and Preferred Units
_____ Consumer Affairs
_____ Awareness, Education, and Training

Agency Metric Coordinator _____
(signed)

Agency _____

DRAFT
May 9, 1977

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON METRICATION POLICY
METRICATION OPERATING COMMITTEE
DIVISION DESCRIPTION

- I. TITLE: Fuel and Power
- II. PROPOSED LEAD AGENCY: Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) or Federal Power Commission (FPC) or Federal Energy Administration (FEA)
- III. OTHER AGENCIES: Energy Research and Development Administration
Federal Power Commission
Federal Energy Administration
Department of Commerce
Department of Interior
Department of Defense
Department of Transportation
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Tennessee Valley Authority
- IV. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE: Coordinate the metrification activities of the Federal agencies involved in fuel and power and keep abreast of and interface with the private and public sector metrification activities in the area of fuel and power.
- V. INTERFACE: American industry, particularly via the ANMC, Canadian liaison representatives and other international organizations (public and private) relating to fuel and power.
- VI. FUNCTIONS: Establish a program to coordinate inter-agency metrification so as to facilitate conversion with minimum cost and without adverse effect on the U.S. fuel and power needs. Identify interagency conversion problems and provide recommendations or solutions. Identify Federal statutes, regulations and other authority which limit the efficacy of metric conversion in the fuel and power area and make appropriate recommendations to the Metrification Operating Committee.
- VII. JUSTIFICATION: The fuel and power needs of the nation are some of the foremost problems facing the U.S. Metrification must be planned and coordinated in order to eliminate adverse effects on the nation's goals in the area of fuel and power.

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May 9, 1977

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON METRICATION POLICY
METRICATION OPERATING COMMITTEE
AREA DESCRIPTION

- I. TITLE: Construction
- II. PROPOSED LEAD AGENCY: Department of Defense
- III. OTHER AGENCIES: National Bureau of Standards
Department of Defense
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Housing and Urban Development
General Services Administration
Veterans Administration
Health, Education and Welfare
Energy Research and Development Administration
United States Department of Agriculture
Department of Labor
- IV. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE: Coordinate the construction metrification activities of the Federal Agencies, to keep the Agencies informed of the progress of metrification in the construction industry, and to keep abreast of the dimensional coordination as it affects the Federal Agencies.
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- V. INTERFACE: American industry, labor, and other public and private sector representatives involved in construction metrification and with Canadian, Australian and British liaison representatives as well as other international governmental, industrial and private construction organization representatives.
- VI. FUNCTION: Establish a program to coordinate the conversion to metric so as to minimize the conversion costs, assist in selecting preferred SI units and their use conventions, assist integration of dimensional coordination with metric conversion, develop program for training activities, identify "benefit opportunities" through metrification, develop sub-sector programs (such as design, codes, standards, engineering) and integrate these activities, and assure timely introduction of SI into the regulatory system.

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May 9, 1977

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FOR METRICATION POLICY (ICMP)
METRICATION OPERATING COMMITTEE
DIVISION DESCRIPTION

- I. TITLE: Procurement and Supply
- II. PROPOSED LEAD AGENCY: General Services Administration
- III. OTHER AGENCIES: Department of Defense
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Small Business Administration
Veterans Administration
Energy Research and Development Administration
- IV. PURPOSE & OBJECTIVE: Investigate, review and implement changes to laws, regulations, or directives that may inhibit the procurement of materials and hardware expressed or configured in metric dimensions.
- V. INTERFACE: Industry, Small Business, Procurement Representatives.
- VI. FUNCTION: Conduct actions as specified and applicable in the paragraph Division responsibilities, in the Metrication Operating Committee Establishment, Organization and Operation document.
- VII. JUSTIFICATION: Metric conversion for items occurs when procurement is exercised. It is essential that laws, regulations, or directives be changed to permit the procurement or solicitation of metric designed items.

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May 9, 1977

- I. TITLE : Transportation Division
- II. PROPOSED LEAD AGENCY : Department of Transportation
- III. OTHER AGENCIES : Department of Defense
General Services Administration
U.S. Post Office
Veterans Administration
Civil Aeronautics Board
Interstate Commerce Commission
- IV. PURPOSE & OBJECTIVE : Provide guidance for the Government's transportation activities (aviation, highways, rail, marine, pipelines, and hazardous materials) to effectively carryout the transition to the metric system. Coordinate metric conversion activities with private sector, state and local governments, and others as appropriate to assure a smooth transition.
- V. INTERFACE : National and international transportation and standards organizations
State and local governments
Transportation industries
- VI. FUNCTION : Conduct actions as specified in the paragraph Area Responsibilities, in the Metrication Operating Committee Establishment, Organization and Operation document dated April 6, 1977.
- VII. JUSTIFICATION : Transportation transcends every aspect of American life. One out of every eight persons in the labor force is employed in transportation. It is essential that transportation activities undertaking metrication be coordinated to ensure operational, technical, economical, environmental, and safety considerations.

May 9, 1977

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FOR METRICATION POLICY (ICMP)
METRICATION OPERATING COMMITTEE
DIVISION DESCRIPTION

- I. TITLE: Legislation and Regulations
- II. PROPOSED LEAD AGENCY: Department of Justice or OMB
- III. OTHER AGENCIES: Department of Interior
Department of Transportation
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Small Business Administration
Federal Energy Administration
- IV. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES: To address the issues associated with legislative and regulatory provisions that establish nonmetric measurement criteria as limits or controls on public and agency activity. Examples of such limiting criteria are laws or regulations specifying speed limits in miles per hour or laws limiting land holdings in terms of acres.
- V. INTERFACE: Congress
Representatives of organizations affected by respective legislation or regulations.
- VI. FUNCTION: To identify and give substance to the character of legislative and regulating considerations agencies need to recognize in their metric conversion processes. To clarify the extent to which legislative limits stated in nonmetric terms inhibit agency conversion action and thus call for general legislation; as distinguished from specific legislation aimed at altering specific nonmetric criteria in a given law. To clarify the interagency impact of regulations specifying nonmetric measurement criteria. This responsibility deals with the need to identify regulations by agencies that inhibit conversion by other agencies and to facilitate interagency communications on such regulations.
- VII. JUSTIFICATION: Many laws and regulations have been written using U.S. customary units. Because of these laws and regulations, many practices in the country, such as acreage limitations, have become institutionalized. The conversion to metric will require attention to these institutionalized practices and the associated laws and regulations.

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May 9, 1977

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE FOR METRICATION POLICY
METRICATION OPERATING COMMITTEE
AREA DESCRIPTION

- I. TITLE: Metric Practices and Preferred Units
- II. PROPOSED LEAD AGENCY: Department of Commerce (NBS) or Department of Defense
- III. OTHER AGENCIES: Department of Defense
Department of Commerce (NBS)
Department of Agriculture
Department of Interior
Energy Research and Development Administration
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
General Services Administration
Department of Transportation
- IV. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE: Assure that 1) there are uniform metrication practices guidelines for use by all the federal agencies, and 2) the federal agencies have access to and are using the latest preferred metric units by coordinating metric practices of the federal agencies to assure the maximum degree of uniformity, providing for federal agency use of preferred metric units so that the chances for the proliferation of non-standard metric units are obviated, and promulgate the use of metric practice standards so there is unity of application, approach and understanding across the federal agencies.
- V. INTERFACE: Academic groups, non-Federal government agencies, and industrial and the private sectors, within and outside the United States which have a need for uniform metric practices and preferred units.
- VI. FUNCTIONS: Specified in the paragraph on Area Responsibilities under Metrication Operating Committee document, Establishment, Organization and Operation of Sectors, dated April 6, 1977, of the Interagency Committee on Metrication Policy.
- VII. JUSTIFICATION: The various agencies that will be undertaking metrication have a need to adhere to a uniform set of definitions, procedures, practices and conventions in order that confusion can be minimized when metrication is effected within the agencies' area of responsibility.

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INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON METRICATION POLICY
METRICATION OPERATING COMMITTEE
DIVISION DESCRIPTION

- I. TITLE: Consumer Affairs
- II. PROPOSED LEAD AGENCY: New Consumer Agency
- III. OTHER AGENCIES: Federal Trade Commission
Department of Agriculture
Health, Education, & Welfare
National Bureau of Standards, DOC
- IV. PURPOSE & OBJECTIVE: To protect consumers against deception respecting weights and measures, packaging and labeling, etc. To ensure consideration of the consumer's viewpoint in metric conversion.
- V. INTERFACE: Other metric divisions
Private consumer groups
Private business
ANMC
- VI. FUNCTION: To monitor, anticipate and act on consumer problems and consumers viewpoint occasioned by metric conversion. To recommend to the operating committee on metrification and to federal agencies.
- VII. JUSTIFICATION: Metric conversion of consumer products will create problems and responses that will have to be solved by the U.S. Government. Consumer activities permeate every aspect of American endeavors.